

**A melanic form of *Carabus clathratus* L. (Col.: Carabidae)**

A variety of this fine ground-beetle has lately come to my notice which I do not find mentioned in the works available to me, and which, therefore, must be rare to say the least. It is to all intents and purposes melanic, retaining only some slight trace of metallic lustre, but practically none in the inter-costal pits on the elytra. The beetle thus has a very sombre aspect compared with ordinary specimens, where ground colour is shining dark greenish-brass and the elytral pits strikingly coppery or golden.

I possess an example of the above variety from the collection of my late friend Arthur W. Gould, with the data "Loch Lurgainn, Sutherland, 15.6.60, C. McD.". It measures only 23 mm as compared with an average of 27 mm for the type form. Another, virtually identical except in being distinctly larger, is in my friend Prof. J.A. Owen's collection, and was taken in Glen Dessarry, West Inverness-shire, in July 1978.

Melanism is probably occasional in all species of *Carabus* not normally black in ground colour. In Britain it is definitely recorded for at least *nemoralis* Müll., *nitens* L., and *granulatus* L., and no doubt occurs also in *monilis* F. and *arvensis* Hbst.— A.A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.

**Rothamsted farmland light trap network: interesting Lepidoptera records for May 1990**

Twenty-five of the proposed 26 sites described in a recent article (*antea* 200-201) were in continuous operation during May and, once again, the early emergence of many species was the most interesting aspect of the catches. The more noteworthy records are summarised below giving the date of first capture and, in brackets, the usual time of emergence.

*Timandra griseata* Peters 6/7.v. (late May); *Scopula imitaria* Hb. 31.v. (July); *Idaea seriata* Schr. Frequent since 4/5.v. (late June); *I. dimidiata* Hufn. 23.v. (late June); *I. aversata* Linn. 29.v. (mid-June); *Mythimna impura* Hb. 31.v. (late June); *M. pallens* Linn. Frequent since 25.v. (late June); *Acronicta leporina* Linn. 17.v. (early June); *Pseudoips fagana* Fabr. 3.v. and frequent since 14.v. (June).

Other records of note are several individuals of *Autographa gamma* (Linn.), in "mint" condition, during early May. These records, along with a locally-discovered fully-grown larva in February, suggest likely overwintering in this species. A single *Udea ferrugalis* Hb. (Pyrilidae) was recorded on 23rd May but no other suspected immigrants were caught during the month. Finally, a single *Panolis flammea* D. & S. was caught on 2nd May and, despite Rothamsted Insect Survey light traps operating on the estate periodically since 1933 and continuously since 1960, this species has never before been recorded.— MARTIN C. TOWNSEND and ADRIAN M. RILEY, Dept. Entomology and Nematology, AFRC Inst. Arable Crops Res., Rothamsted Exp. Stn., Harpenden, Herts AL5 2JQ.